



U.S. Department of Justice


Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

April 25, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Robert Raben 
Assistant Attorney General

SUBJECT: Weekly Report for April 24 - April 28, 2000

The Senate returns from recess today; the House returns on May 2.

KEY ISSUES

Elian Gonzalez: On April 25, you are scheduled to meet with Majority Leader Trent Lott and the Senate Leadership to discuss the events of last weekend in Miami. (First)

Meeting with Senator Domenici: On April 26, you are scheduled to meet with Senator Domenici, along with ENRD's Assistant Attorney General Lois Schiffer and Deputy Assistant Attorney General James Simon, to discuss some concerns the Senator has about the proposed settlement in Pueblo of Sandia v. Babbitt. This settlement would end litigation regarding a land dispute between the Pueblo and the United States, as well as addressing various access issues that were not the subject of litigation. Staff from the Office of Legislative Affairs will also be in attendance at the meeting. (Pearlman)

Attorney General School Visits: On April 28, you are scheduled to visit two Houston, Texas schools with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. OLA's Assistant Attorney General Robert Raben will accompany you on the visit. The events will center around youth violence and gun violence reduction. (Scott-Finan)

Nominations: The Senate Judiciary Committee has noticed a nominations hearing for April 27. We have also been advised that the nomination of Donnie Marshall, to be Administrator of DEA, will be on that hearing. (Scott-Finan)

Campaign Finance Oversight: On April 26, the Senate Judiciary Committee (Hatch, Chair) is scheduled to hold a hearing to question Charles LaBella on the documents the Department released in response to the Committee's subpoena to him for Department documents in his possession. A core group of seven responsive documents were delivered to Senate Security on April 20, with a letter requesting limited access to them, and no release of contents pending further discussions this week between the Committee and the Department. (Walter)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Pain Relief/Physician Assisted Suicide: On April 25, the Senate Judiciary Committee (Hatch, Chair) will hold a hearing on H.R. 2260, the Pain Relief Promotion Act of 2000, which would allow physicians to prescribe federally controlled drugs to relieve pain among terminally ill patients. A markup of the bill is scheduled for April 27. (Tanner)

Victims' Rights Amendment: The Senate has scheduled debate on S.J.Res. 3, the Victims' Rights Constitutional Amendment for April 25. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Pearlman)

FOIA EXEMPTION (b)(5)

FY 2001 Intelligence Authorization Act: On April 27, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (Shelby, Chair) is scheduled to mark up the FY 2001 Intelligence Authorization Act, which includes an amendment exempting authorized U.S. intelligence activities from new statutes intended to implement international agreements unless Congress specifies to the contrary. The Department has worked with CIA and State in drafting this amendment; a joint House-Senate intelligence staff briefing is set for April 25 with staff from the Office of Legislative Affairs and the Criminal Division, joined by staff from the CIA and State Department. (Walter)

Agribusiness Hearing: On April 27, the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (Lugar, Chair) is scheduled to hold an oversight hearing on the impact of agribusiness concentration on producers and consumers. Antitrust Division's Deputy Assistant Attorney General John Nannes will testify before the Committee. (Slover)

Community Prosecutions: On May 4, the Deputy Attorney General will meet with Congressman Steven Rothman to discuss the Department's community prosecutions programs. OLA's Assistant Attorney General Robert Raben will attend the meeting with the Deputy Attorney General. This meeting was previously scheduled for April 11. (Scott-Finan)

THE WEEK IN-REVIEW

Radiation Exposure: On April 19, staff from the Office of Legislative Affairs and the Civil Division briefed staff of the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims on S. 1515, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments. This legislation passed the Senate last November. The Department has sent a letter to the House Judiciary Committee outlining some concerns we have with this legislation. (Pearlman)

New York: On April 18, Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder and Acting Associate General Dan Marcus met with Congressmen Charles Rangel and Jerrold Nadler to hear their concerns about the New York Police Department and pattern and practice issues. (Scott-Finan)